

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE  
IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

VOL. XVII

JUNE, 1947

NO. 2



## OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

President—Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Ottumwa, Iowa  
Vice-President—Dr. Robert F. Vane, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Sec'y-Treas.—Miss Lillian Serbousek, 1226 Second St. S.W.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Librarian—Dr. Warren N. Keck, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Editor—Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa

### Executive Council:

Mrs. Harold R. Peasley, Des Moines, Iowa  
Miss Zell C. Lee, Sioux City, Iowa  
Miss Mary H. Young, Waterloo, Iowa

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; 'The Bulletin,' 1929-1930; 'Iowa Bird Life,' beginning 1931.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$1.00 a year. Single copies 25c each. Subscription to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are four classes, as follows: Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$3.00 a year; Regular Member, \$1.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), 50c a year.

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
WINTHROP, IOWA

Entered as second-class matter February 9, 1932, at the post office at Winthrop, Iowa, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

## HABITS OF HERRING GULLS

By JAMES HODGES

DAVENPORT, IOWA

One of my greatest anticipations of the year is the return of the gulls on the Mississippi River, which borders the south side of Scott County, Iowa where this study was made. The Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) is the most common gull in this area. It is common in spring and is a tolerably common fall migrant; it is frequently a winter visitor if food can be secured.

It was my good fortune to live within a five-minute walk of the Mississippi River for several years. Here I had opportunity to make accurate and detailed observations on the habits of these scavengers of our waters.

Adults and first and second year immature birds are found during the migration. The weather and flow of ice in the river are the two factors that control the migration, but this might be reduced to only one factor, the weather, as it alone affects the ice flow. As soon as the ice starts to break up and move down the river more gulls arrive, as food may be secured more easily.

When Herring Gulls are resting on the water they are not in one huge group but are divided up into smaller groups of only a few birds up to several hundred. These groups are usually quite compact. When in flight, though, they spread over a large area. This is quite a spectacle when several thousand birds are going northward. The immature birds seem to keep more to themselves and do not mingle with the adult birds as might be expected.

I have never seen all the gulls resting at one time as there are always a few sailing and gliding overhead. When one bird is disturbed and takes flight all the other nearby gulls follow suit. On our windy March days the gulls delight in soaring and gliding overhead at great altitudes. Every now and then they seem to go on a "soaring spree", when they glide and call to each other for a quarter of an hour or more at a time. When the birds are resting on the water I have often found a few birds with heads tucked beneath their wings suggesting that they were sleeping.

The Herring Gull is more pugnacious to other members of its own species than it is toward other water and land birds. I have seen them resting on sand-bars with Crows and ducks and they were getting along very well. Bald Eagles flew over flocks of gulls at low elevations and the gulls showed no fear of the eagles. They also show no fear of Marsh Hawks. The only birds of which they showed evident fear was a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks. These hawks made no effort to disturb the gulls.

I have found the calls of Herring Gulls very interesting. They have a variety of calls of a squealing nature which are given at intervals. At night these calls sound much like people calling for help on the river. At times I have heard calls that sounded like those of Killdeer but much louder and harsher. Whenever the gulls engage in a fight, which seems to be quite often, it is a signal for a chorus of calls from nearby birds, perhaps to urge on the warriors. The calls of Herring Gulls can sometimes be heard a half mile or more depending on weather conditions.

The gulls' food during the migration period consists of dead and living fish. When ice still covers a portion of the river the gulls find small open areas where they hunt food. Small groups at times alight on wing-dams or rocks in the middle of the rushing river or ride on blocks of ice

going down stream. When one gull has a morsel of food any other gull that comes near is driven away. There are loud cries, a pugnacious position is assumed and there is a fanning of wings. They are fed quite often by the occupants of the houseboats along the shore of the river. These people feed the gulls with table scraps as in the manner that we feed our land birds during the winter months.

Along the sandy shore of the Mississippi River I often come upon areas that are covered with bird droppings and fish scales. I believe these areas are the roosting places or resting areas of these birds when the river is too rough.

## A SONG SPARROW'S NEST

By MRS. W. C. DE LONG  
LAMONT, IOWA

It is May 18, 1946. The boys are fishing for Northern pike on the Iowa River five miles east of Clarion. In place of fishing, I am listening to the songs of our nesting and migrating birds.

Interesting sounds come from the bank of a large pond made by the overflow of the Iowa River. A Spotted Sandpiper, with large round spots on his breast like those of a Wood Thrush, runs along the edge of the bank, teetering up and down between his steps, uttering "peet weet." Two Solitary Sandpipers, dark-winged birds that show white sides to the tail when in flight, are bowing and nodding their heads, but their hinder parts are not so active as the Spotted Sandpiper.

A Blue-winged Teal, with a large white crescent in front of the eye, takes one look at me and then suddenly rises into the air and disappears over the trees. He has no way of knowing that I have only binoculars, not a gun. An Indigo Bunting is singing in a tree near the bank. He repeats his phrases in pairs like this: "Sweet-sweet — where - where — here - here." If it were not for your song, Indigo, I would pass you by, for you appear to be a dull black up there in the tree top, not blue at all. I hear another Indigo in the next tree singing the same song. Suddenly he drops to the edge of the pond and the sun, reflecting on his head and breast, reveals an intense blue, brilliant and beautiful.

A little brown bird with a worm in its mouth alights in the same tree with the first Indigo. This must be the female, but a look through the glass reveals not a female Indigo at all, but a Song Sparrow. This is becoming interesting. There must be a nest nearby. I shall watch this bird and see where he takes that worm. I am keeping my eye on him in spite of the temptation to turn my head and watch the more beautiful bird which is singing again, "Sweet - sweet — here - here."

Now the Song Sparrow is going to fly. Down he goes, skims over the green grass across a fence to a patch of weeds. He alights on a dead stalk which protrudes up away from this year's green foliage. I follow him as far as the fence. He knows I'm watching him for he cheeps loudly with the worm still in his beak, and soon he is joined by his mate who jumps up from the weeds and sits on the same stalk and chirps and scolds.

As long as I watch them, they will not descend from that stalk. I decide to retreat and hide behind a bush. Behind me, a male Bobolink alights on a slender stem of a weed. Propped by the stiff, pointed feathers of his tail, he sways in the breeze, pouring forth his hilarious melody, loud, clear and strong, full of queer kinks and twists. Up he shoots into the air and it



SONG SPARROW  
From a painting by E. W. Steffen.

seems only the rippling music within him is now keeping him afloat. Down he drops with his song to another stem.

When I turn my head to watch the Song Sparrows, they are gone. I climb over the fence and examine the stalk on which I saw them alight. I search the ground among the weeds. The weeds are smooth dock. Oh! something stung me on the wrist. Every time I touch these weeds, it is the same sensation. I look at my wrist, which has become a mass of red blotches. A close examination of the weeds reveals there are nettle weeds among the smooth dock. How wise of Song Sparrows to choose such a spot for their nest. Surely no cattle will molest them here.

I can not find the nest so I retreat back into the woods nearer the river and sit down on the trunk of a large tree that is lying horizontal on the ground. Here I can keep my eye on the Song Sparrows should they come back.

I hear voices in the tree tops above me. They are warblers. One dashes out and catches an insect on the wing, showing white on his tail and a yellow patch on the rump. The Myrtles are still here. Queer they haven't left by now.

What a beautiful throat! A Black-throated Green Warbler with a bright yellow face framed by a black throat and olive green crown and back just danced to a bough where I can see him in full view.

One of the Song Sparrows is back on that stalk again. He drops to the ground among the green foliage of the weeds. There must be a nest there somewhere. I watch, but never see him fly up again. Perhaps it is the female and she has decided to stay and brood her babies.

A striped gray warbler with a solid black cap dances in the tree above, and I write down Black-poll in my notebook. The early Myrtle and late migrating Black-poll make a strange pair to see in the same tree at the same time. A Chestnut-sided Warbler comes down to a low branch and looks at me. I do not have much time to admire his yellow crown and chestnut sides, for the Song Sparrows both alight on the stalk and then drop to the ground. I quickly go over and make a complete search, looking at the foot of all the weeds. I am about to give up in disgust and go to find the boys to see what luck they are having fishing.

"Wheep-wheep" comes from a tree. I must find him, the Crested Flycatcher. I haven't seen him this year. "Wheeeep - wheep." There he is yonder, sitting in a tree with his back turned toward me, showing his reddish tail.

A Blue-headed Vireo comes down on a branch and peers at me. He takes his time and moves slowly, searching for insects under the leaves in place of flitting about like the warblers.

I am leaving. I'm tired of searching for that Song Sparrow's nest. I climb over the fence and walk along the edge of the pond.

The Spotted Sandpiper, rising into the air pours forth a succession of notes that sound much like this: "Sus - a - weet — sus - a - weet — sweet - sweet - sweet - sweet."

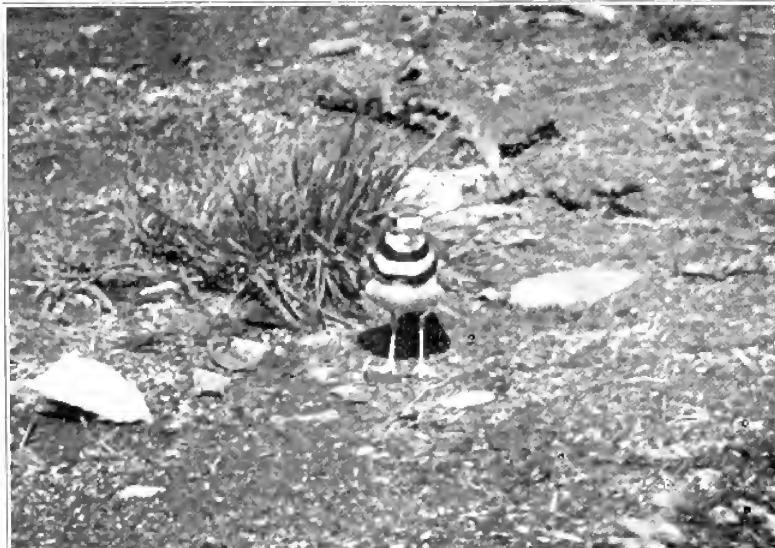
A Song Sparrow, flying ahead of me, again crosses my path. As I look back once more at the weed patch and that empty stalk he alights. It is a challenge! The nest is there. Why can I not find it? I run to the fence, climb quickly over it and start searching again, this time in a different direction. A bird flies up from the weeds. Now, I have the secret. I stand still, start parting the foilage of the smooth dock weed, and there is my nest on the ground!

Little Song Sparrows are just being born. Two babies are out of the eggs. The shells are still in the nest. One shell is around an egg. As I pick it up to remove the shell, it breaks. It is not fertile. Three eggs are left besides the two babies. I have found my first Song Sparrow's nest.

I walk the distance to where the boys are fishing. I tell them it is just as much sport and as difficult to find a Song Sparrow's nest as it is to cast for pike.

On May 19, I visit the nest again. Five little naked, brownish-pink babies lift their heads up for worms. All the eggs have hatched.

May 23, was marked by thunder, lightning and a downpour of rain. The Iowa River cannot take all the water, and the Song Sparrows, now five days old are drowned in the flood. On May 30 I visited the nest once more. The water has receded. As I pick up the water-soaked nest, I hear a voice behind me singing, "Sweet - sweet - sweet - very merry cheer", and, turning around, I see the male Song Sparrow sitting on the fencepost. Another nest must be in the making.



#### A BIRD OF THE SEASON

The Killdeer is typical of the open fields of Iowa in June, for it is a common summer resident and is known to every farmer boy, who flushes the incubating bird from her nest in the corn rows as he plows corn. The above photographs, one of which shows the Killdeer on the nest in a characteristic pose, were taken by Alfred M. Bailey and enlarged from moving picture film. Reprinted from the "Wilson Bulletin," June 1929.

## A MONUMENT TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON

By FRED J. PIERCE

An event of considerable historic importance took place at Wyalusing State Park, in southwestern Wisconsin, on May 11, 1947. On that day a monument was dedicated to a beautiful bird that many years ago perished from the face of the earth. The story of the abundance and almost unbelievable concentrations of the Passenger Pigeon, followed by man's equally unbelievable greed and cruelty in destroying it down to almost the last bird, has been written indelibly in the annals of ornithology and in the minds of a later, more thoughtful generation of conservationists. The unveiling of a monument to this bird is a noteworthy tribute to a vanished creature as well as a project of which the sponsors, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, may feel justly proud. Much careful thought and planning went into this project, and the completion of the monument marked the end of a dream which was born at the Wisconsin Society's meeting in 1941.

The Wisconsin Society extended an invitation to the members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union to attend the dedication ceremonies, but unfortunately it was the same day as our convention field trip at Cedar Falls and not many persons felt that they could attend. A few members decided to forego the pleasures of the Cedar Falls field trip in favor of being present for the unveiling at Wyalusing. The Union was represented by this small delegation: Richard Guthrie, Mr. and Mrs. Myrtle L. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce.

It was a beautiful May day and the morning drive over the hills of northeastern Iowa to Marquette was most enjoyable. After crossing the Mississippi River, there was a drive of 15 miles southeast of Prairie du Chien by way of Bridgeport, with arrival at Wyalusing in time for the ceremonies in the early afternoon. The dedication was attended by a large group of persons, including bird students of Wisconsin and conservationists from many parts of the country. Master of Ceremonies J. Harwood Evans introduced various speakers on the program, among them the designers and builders of the bronze plaque and monument, and Conservation Commissioner W. J. P. Aberg, who accepted the monument in behalf of the people of Wisconsin. The principal speaker of the afternoon was Dr. Hartley H. T. Jackson, of Washington D.C., whose subject, "Attitude in Conservation", was both timely and impressive.

The monument is in the form of a scenic overlook built of native stone with a large bronze plaque as the central feature. Below a lifesize figure of the Passenger Pigeon is this inscription: "Dedicated to the last Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon, shot at Babcock, Sept. 1899. This species became extinct through the avarice and thoughtlessness of man. Erected by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology."

On the western crown of Sentinel Ridge, which is a high, wooded bluff, the monument overlooks the Father of Waters with its acres of tree-covered islands lying just below. An unsurpassed view of the mighty river spread out for several miles is presented at this point. On the opposite shore the city of McGregor and Pikes Peak State Park may be seen. The position of the bronze plaque is such that the golden rays of the setting sun fall upon it—a somber but fitting tribute to a departed race. As we looked a shadow fell across the monument. It was only a cloud obscuring the sun, but it served as a reminder of the vast clouds of Passenger Pigeons that once flew over these hills on the Mississippi and shut out the light of the sun — a sight that will never again be witnessed by man.

Walter E. Scott, editor of 'Silent Wings', the Wisconsin Society's memorial booklet to the Passenger Pigeon, makes the following eloquent, thought-provoking plea in the opening page of that publication:

"There is no value in any monument, and books are written in vain, if they do not make us stop our busy life a moment for solemn thought. Is it not true that more of our bird species became extinct in the last century than in the one before? Is it not true that even while we watch, others are vanishing? Must these things be inevitable while we remain helpless observers?"

"This is not a gesture of the soft-hearted who are affected by the disappearance of our native species. It is a challenge to the strong who will fight for the rightful heritage of their sons and daughters as they believe it should be. This, then, is a time for dedication of ourselves to a cause that we see as just and a purpose that is good to lend our efforts in the direction of the perpetuation of our native wildlife in its native habitat wherever such course of action is reasonably possible."

## THE REPORT ON THE CEDAR FALLS CONVENTION

By LILLIAN SERBOUSEK  
Sec'y-Treas., Iowa Ornithologists' Union

The 25th annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11, 1947, at Cedar Falls. The Saturday morning session was held at the Woman's Club House. Mrs. Oren Paine, President of the Cedar Falls Audubon Society, welcomed the members. The Union's President, Charles C. Ayres, Jr., responded to Mrs. Paine's welcome. He then introduced the first speaker, Dr. J. Harold Ennis, of Mt. Vernon, whose subject was, "Some Experiences with Bird Feeding Counters." Dr. Ennis enumerated the kinds of nuts and seeds used at his counter, and told of the observations of the Oregon Junco at the feeding counter of Dr. Charles R. Keyes, within Mt. Vernon. A total of 14 species visited this counter. A fire escape on the fourth floor of the girls' dormitory was the location of the third feeding station described by Dr. Ennis. This station, about 48 feet from the ground, was maintained by girls of Cornell College, and 11 species fed there, the food consisting of chopped walnuts, butter, bread, suet and seeds. The girls made interesting observations of individual differences in the same species of birds and did some experimenting with various foods.

Philip A. DuMont, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, discussed the question of "Why Keep Bird Records?" He stated that people keep records to become acquainted with birds, for migrational studies, and to study behavior and territorial problems. He cited the importance of bird records to the Fish and Wildlife Service as an aid in intelligently administering the conservation of bird resources. Migration data are tabulated on small cards by volunteer bird students in various parts of the country. This information includes migration dates, breeding and wintering status, and the abundance of each species in different localities. The Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting the aid of bird clubs and other agencies in the work of compiling data which will be of value for their reference files.

The last speaker of the morning session was Albert C. Berkowitz, of Des Moines. His subject was "Before Audubon", and he traced the beginning of natural history study in America. He mentioned the early work of Mark Catesby who published a book on the natural history of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands in 1726, a book that dealt chiefly with

plants but did include a list of birds. Mr. Berkowitz said he believed credit should go to William Bartram for being the first important American ornithologist. Bartram was familiar with Catesby's book and was able to add considerable information. In 1791, Bartram published his important book, "Travels Through North and South Carolina, Georgia, and East and West Florida". The last early ornithologist discussed by Mr. Berkowitz was Alexander Wilson, whose early life in Scotland and subsequent removal to United States which led to a friendship with Bartram, is quite well known through biographies. While Wilson was obtaining subscriptions to his 'American Ornithology' he traveled over much of the eastern United States and it was on one of these trips that his famous meeting with Audubon took place. Mr. Berkowitz gave many interesting details and sidelights on the life of Wilson, from his boyhood in Scotland to the time his monumental work on American birds had taken its final form. The untimely death of Wilson cut short a great ornithological career.

Saturday luncheon was served in the Congregational Church basement. The afternoon and evening programs were held in the auditorium of Iowa State Teachers College. The first afternoon speaker was Dr. Robert F. Vane, of Cedar Rapids. He gave an illustrated lecture entitled "Feathers Through the Lens". He showed three reels of colored moving pictures which he had taken over a period of years. One film showed the Blue and Snow Goose migration on the Missouri River. The second reel showed pictures of winter birds found in his yard during two years of residence in Iowa City. The third film included nests of the Woodcock, Killdeer, Shrike, Nighthawk, Lark Sparrow, and Cliff Swallow.

Myrle L. Jones, custodian of Ledges State Park, gave an illustrated talk entitled "Bird-banding Goes International". He explained various methods used in bird-banding, displayed some of the types of bands and traps that he uses, and told how certain questions relating to birds are being answered through bird-banding. He concluded his talk by a showing of colored slides of birds, with their migration routes traced through maps, graphs, etc. He told of the repeated trapping of some species and of the returns of banded birds from many parts of the country. The banding of birds shows that 16 species have participated in transoceanic flights.

"Field Trips in Central America and Colombia" described Dr. Martin L. Grant's experiences in these countries. Dr. Grant was a member of a group whose aim was to locate cinchona trees for the United States Government during the war. His many field trips enabled him to make extensive observations in various parts of Colombia. He used color slides to show us the different types of plant and animal life that he encountered, as well as the lives and customs of the natives. He stated that Colombia, with an area only one-sixth as large as the United States, has 1800 species of birds, some of which are extremely local, thus making identification difficult in many cases. Dr. Grant displayed articles typical of Colombia and explained how native plants were used in their construction.

A business meeting ended the afternoon session. The minutes of the 24th annual meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted; our funds showed a balance of \$372.47. Dr. Keck, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, gave his report. The Nominating Committee (A. C. Berkowitz, Mrs. Ray Dix and Mrs. M. L. Jones) submitted the names of new officers for the coming year. These are given on the title page of this issue of 'Iowa Bird Life'. The officers were elected by unanimous ballot cast by the Secretary upon motion of the voting members. Dr. Keck presented the names of Dr. T. C. Stephens and Mrs. Mary

L. Bailey, both of Sioux City, and recommended their election as Honorary Members. It was voted that they be so elected. It was moved and seconded that the President appoint a committee of three to consider the advisability of an increase in members of the Executive Council. Another committee was recommended to investigate the advantages in affiliating with the Wilson Ornithological Club. The spring bird census was discussed at some length, as well as the possibility of holding an additional meeting during the year, with no definite action taken at that time. After the business meeting many members accepted the invitation of Dr. and Mrs. Martin Grant to visit their home; souvenirs of the Grants' Colombian trip were examined in a unique display room recently added to their home, and coffee was served. Some members also found time for a visit to a bird sanctuary before the banquet hour.

The annual Ornithologists' Banquet was served at 6 p.m. at the Woman's Club House, with 140 members and friends seated at the tables. Favors were small birds made of seeds and perched on small twig trees. During the dinner E. W. Steffen presented one of his paintings to the President, Charles Ayres, and made a humorous speech that gave the diners considerable entertainment. There was an exhibit of Mr. Steffen's bird paintings, at the Woman's Club House during the Saturday sessions.

The evening speaker was Dr. W. J. Breckenridge, Director of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. He gave an illustrated lecture entitled "Try Photographing Birds" at the Iowa State Teachers College auditorium. First he discussed the problems, difficulties and pleasures in photographing birds, then followed with a series of colored moving pictures. One of the outstanding films that Dr. Breckenridge showed was "Northward Migration of Sandhill Cranes in the Platte River Area in Western Nebraska".

Sunday breakfast was served at 4:30 a.m. to those participating in the field trips which followed. Three trips were scheduled, the leaders being Dr. Martin L. Grant, Charles C. Ayres, Jr., and Frances Crouter. All groups met at the Hartman Reserve at the conclusion of the trips. Luncheon was served and the list of birds observed by the combined groups was compiled. After this a short business meeting was held. Mr. DuMont read a letter of greeting to the Union from a former Iowa ornithologist, Dr. R. M. Anderson, of Ottawa, Canada. An invitation from Sioux City Bird Club, to hold our 1948 convention in their city, was read and considered. It was voted to accept the invitation and to hold the 1948 convention at Sioux City, also to invite the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and ornithologists of South Dakota to meet with us at that time. It was further voted to meet the third week-end in May — May 15 and 16. After some discussion as to whether to continue the spring bird censuses, it was voted to take the census this year on May 18, with the results of the census to be collected, tabulated and published in 'Iowa Bird Life'. The matter of future censuses was left for the Executive Council to decide. After all business matters had been taken care of, a motion was made to adjourn. The Cedar Falls convention thus ended and went into history, to join the long list of very enjoyable and very successful conventions of our organization.

**Resolutions**—BE IT RESOLVED by the 25th session of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union:

1. That we express our deep gratitude to the Cedar Falls Audubon Society, our host, for its gracious hospitality and for making the detailed arrangements for the convention.

2. Be it further resolved that we thank all who contributed to the excellent program.

3. Be it further resolved that we express our appreciation to the women of the Congregational Church of Cedar Falls for catering the luncheon, to the Woman's Club for its facilities and serving the dinner, and to Dr. and Mrs. Martin Grant for the coffee hour and open house after the afternoon session.

4. Be it further resolved that the Union express its regret at the deaths of two faithful members: Ethan Hemsley of Dubuque and Dr. Kuno Struck of Davenport.

5. Be it further resolved that the membership give special recognition to Fred J. Pierce for his faithful and efficient services as Editor of 'Iowa Bird Life' and also for his exhibit of bird books at the convention.

6. Be it further resolved to recognize the generosity of E. W. Steffen for his exhibit of fine bird paintings.

7. Be it further resolved that the Secretary be instructed to write to the proper officers of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology for their kind invitation to attend the annual meeting and dedication of the mounument in memory of the Passenger Pigeon on May 11.

8. Be it further resolved that the Secretary address a letter of appreciation to President Price of Iowa State Teachers College for the use of the facilities of the auditorium for our meetings.

Respectfully submitted by the Resolution Committee. Warren N. Keck, Chairman, Mrs. Janet DuMont, Charles A. Stewart.

**Attendance Register**—AMES, Gene Ruhr, J. Ned Suygard; BOONE, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones, Barbara Jones; CEDAR FALLS, Ethel Atkinson, Mrs. Roy Baker, Mr. and Mrs. John Bliese, Hugh S. Buffum, Mrs. J. H. Byers, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cleveland, Mrs. Robt. Corning, Verna Davis, Mrs. Ray Dix, Margaret Dorweiler, Mr. and Mrs. Verne Earwicker, Eleanor Eifert, Myrtle Gaffin, Mrs. Geo. Gertsen, Dr. and Mrs. M. L. Grant, Dr. H. E. Harvey, Mrs. G. W. Herrick, Mrs. J. W. Knickerbocker, Florence Love, Mrs. Arthur Lynn, Emma Opper, Mr. and Mrs. Oren Paine, Mrs. Tom Protheroe, Mrs. Russell Rugg, Mrs. Chas. Schwanke, Mrs. Eugene Smith, Mrs. F. M. Stevens, Blanche Stewart, Mrs. Warren Tay, Mrs. Kathryn Thompson, Mrs. Vernon Ulrich, Elizabeth Warttman; CEDAR RAPIDS, C. Esther Copp, Dr. W. N. Keck, Rose Richards, Lillian Serbousek, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Steffen, Emily Steffen, Dr. and Mrs. Robt. Vane, Myra Willis; CHARITON, Robt. B. Moorman; CRESTON, Mr. and Mrs. Uncas M. McGuire; DECORAH, Kay Henning, Mrs. Tom Henning; DES MOINES, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Berko-witz, Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld, Wendell Brazonier, Mr. and Mrs. Woodward Brown, Mrs. Joe Chamberlain, Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Lester Faber, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Johnson, Mrs. H. R. Peasley, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Smith, Irene M. Smith, Bruce Stiles; DeWITT, David Luckstead, Arlen W. Peahl; DUBUQUE, Henry Herrmann, Mrs. Robt. Ruegnitz, Ival M. Schuster, Edra Walter; FAIRFIELD, Margaret Herdliska, Mary McPherson, Mary Olson, Lillian Thada; FORT DODGE, Mrs. Helen Brown; GRINNELL, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Kurth; GRUNDY CENTER, Mrs. Eldin Hasbrouck, Mrs. Helen King; INDEPENDENCE, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bly, Bob Cornwell, Ruth Funk, Bill Melvin, Marvin Plank; INDIANOLA, Paul Leaverton; IOWA CITY, Dorothy Jensen, Dr. and Mrs. P. P. Laude, Richard Turner; MT. VERNON, David Ennis, Dr. J. H. Ennis, Mrs. J. G. Ennis, David Wilson; NEW ALBIN, Dr. Chas. A. Stewart; NEWTON, Bradley McMain, John Paul Moore, OTTUMWA, Chas. C. Ayres, Jr., Chas. C. Ayres, Sr., Marietta Eighme, Pearle C. Walker; SIOUX CITY, Mr.

and Mrs. H. L. Lambert; TAMA, Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, Thelma Carmichael; WATERLOO, Mrs. John Barlow, Lola Barnhart, Salina Hantelman, R. M. Hays, Mrs. C. D. Hays, Lucile Loban, Mrs. Len Myers, Carrie Neidy, Maude Nuhad, Pearle Rader, Evan Sage, Alice Van Tohof, Mrs. J. L. Uban, Mrs. Ida Wade, Katherine Young, Mary H. Young; WAVERLY, Mrs. A. P. Colburn, Mrs. M. F. Gruben; WINTHROP, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce; WOODWARD, Richard A. Guthrie; CHICAGO, ILL., Philip A. DuMont; MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge. Total registered, 137.

**Birds Seen on the Field Trip.**—Casebeer Heights, Goose Lake, Washington Union Bridge, Cedar River country, Golineveaux Slough, in Black Hawk County; three groups of observers; May 11, 1947.

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue and Green Herons, Am. Bittern, Mallard, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Sparrow Hawks, Osprey, Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Virginia, Sora and Yellow Rails, Fla. Gallinule, Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted, Solitary, Pectoral and Least Sandpipers, Lesser Yellow-legs, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned and Barred Owls, Night-hawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-thr. Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested and Least Flycatcher, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Tree, Bank, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White and Red-breasted Nuthatches, House, Prairie Marsh and Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood, Olive-backed, Gray-cheeked and Willow Thrushes, Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Starling, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Black and White, Prothonotary, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Tenn., Orange-crowned, Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, Palm, Wilson's and Canada Warblers, Oven-bird, Grinnell's and Louisiana Water-thrushes, Northern Yellow-throat, Redstart, Bobolink, Eastern and Western Meadow-larks, Yellow-headed, and Red-winged Blackbirds, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, English, Savannah, Leconte's, Vesper, Lark, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Harris's, White-crowned, Gambel's White-throated, Lincoln's, Swamp and Song Sparrows. Total, 137 species.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union:

This year, as in the past, the meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was a most enjoyable occasion. The renewing of old acquaintances, the making of new and the exchange of birding experiences, make attendance at these meetings a "Must" for each year. Everyone seems to have that opinion.

The building up of the membership is a matter of importance in our organization. I again urge each of you to obtain at least one new member during the coming year. Keep your officers informed as to ways that we can assist in bird problems through the state and send your Editor accounts of experiences you may have or accurate notes for publication.

I have received word from Dr. R. Allyn Moser, president of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, that said organization unanimously voted to accept our invitation for a joint meeting in Sioux City next spring. Let us see to it

that the Iowa representation at that time is as large as the one held in Cedar Falls, for it will indeed be a fine opportunity to make the acquaintance of our neighbors west of the Missouri.

In closing, may I thank you for your action in re-electing me to office. I will do my best for the good of the organization. I also wish to thank the officers and members of the Executive Council who served with me last year, the officers and members of the Cedar Falls Audubon Society and those who participated in the program at our annual meeting.

Looking forward to a good year, I remain

Yours very truly,  
CHARLES C. AYRES, JR.

#### NECROLOGY

**Ethan Allen Hemsley**, a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union since 1936 and serving as its Vice-President 1939-40 and 1942-44, died March 7, 1947, after an illness of eight months during which he underwent surgery at a Rochester, Minnesota, hospital. He is survived by his wife and a son, James Allen.

He was born at Janesville, Iowa, October 15, 1887, a son of James and Olive Hemsley. He had been a resident of Dubuque since 1912. He entered the Railway Mail Service in 1910 and at the time of his death was the clerk in charge of the Railway Mail Service office at Dubuque. Mr. Hemsley was a member of the board of directors of the Dubuque Humane Society, a member of the Dubuque Audubon Club, Izaak Walton League, and Dubuque Conservation Society. He was also a member of the Methodist church and the Mosaic Lodge of Masons.

Exceedingly well informed in bird study, he was quick and accurate in bird identification, and gave unstintingly of his time on any co-operative project to which he was called. He had very complete bird records which he had compiled for the Dubuque region. His friendly presence and valuable counsel will be greatly missed by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and we of the Dubuque Audubon Club shall miss him in many, many ways.—Mary H. Young.

**Dr. Kuno H. Struck** died at his home in Davenport, March 4, 1947, at the age of 63, after having been in ill health for some time. He was active in civic and business affairs in his home city and was well known in cultural circles. As a lover of birds and wild flowers, he made many colored slides of both subjects; he was, in addition, a painter of marked ability and a public speaker of merit. Dr. Struck was an active member of the now extinct Davenport Bird Club and for many years was a leader at the May Dawn Bird Concert trip held at Credit Island every May. He became a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in 1929. A life resident of Davenport, he received his education in the public schools of that city and was given the M.D. degree by the State University of Iowa in 1906. In 1917 he retired from the active practice of medicine, but he served as head of the anatomy department and lecturer on physiology and hygiene at Mercy Hospital for a period of 25 years. His wife and a daughter survive him.—James Hodges.



ETHAN HEMSLEY

**GENERAL NOTES**

**Wood Ducks at Close Range.**—One day in late April I had my life's biggest bird thrill. I was on a field trip along Black Hawk Creek and had stopped to watch some kinglets. I heard a loud cry and two Wood Ducks flew into a tall tree behind me. I got a good view of them in the sun, and was congratulating myself on my good luck when they dropped suddenly into the creek not 30 feet from me. I was too startled to move. I couldn't understand how they could miss seeing me. I got a wonderful view in the bright sunlight and every color and marking could be seen. But a slight move on my part sent them off.—RUSSELL M. HAYES, Waterloo, Iowa.

**Pine Grosbeak at Mt. Pleasant.**—During the week of February 10 to 13, 1947, I had the pleasure of observing a female Pine Grosbeak on several occasions. Some of my high school boys reported seeing a strange bird in Saundier's Grove on February 8. On the evening of the 10th we went down after school and watched it for some time. We were able to get quite near the grosbeak and it paid little or no attention to our movements. On February 13 I took six or seven of the students to see it and we surrounded it in a small pine and were sometimes within 10 feet of it. We observed it for ten minutes. It seemed to be feeding on the buds as there were no cones on the tree. We also saw it feeding in cedar trees, presumably on the berries, and also near the ground on buckbrush; again it seemed to be feeding on the dried berries which were abundant. The Pine Grosbeak seems to be rare here and this is the first one I have seen. We thought there might be a male bird in the vicinity, but could find only the lone female. On the evening of February 10 we also saw a flock of eight Bohemian Waxwings.—ROY OLLIVIER, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

**Status of the Tufted Titmouse in Northern Allamakee County.**—The Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) has been regarded in the past as one of the characteristic birds of the Carolinian fauna, but the area in which the present observation was made borders, if not actually in, the Transition zone.

Chapman, in 1912, gives the northernmost range for this bird as Iowa, very casual to the north. Anderson, in 1907, gives it as a rare resident of southern Iowa, seldom reaching the northern part of the state. Pierce, in a report of ten years of winter census from 1920 to 1939, shows a record of 24 birds seen during this period.

All of the above should mean that in the few years past the Tufted Titmouse was a rare bird near the Minnesota line in northern Iowa.

Moseley, in his article on 'Variations in Birds Populations,' published in the January 1947 issue of the 'Auk,' cites this bird as one of the number that have increased their range northward in recent years, due to modified recent winter temperatures.

In this vicinity during the summer months these birds are distributed over a considerable area, making it difficult accurately to estimate their numbers. In the winter they congregate in wooded areas along the Mississippi where there are weed beds. They are usually found in company with chickadees, nuthatches and juncos. Each of these wintering areas will show from three to five birds. They are also frequent visitors at the feeding stations in this vicinity. Contrast this with the record of Mr. Pierce for seven years, made eight years ago and about one hundred miles farther south. This would indicate that the Tufted Titmouse is now firmly established as a permanent resident of this part of northern Iowa and southern Minnesota.

though as yet not found in the number seen in the southern part of the state.  
—CHARLES A. STEWART, New Albin, Iowa.

**Pileated Woodpecker in Clinton County.**—It was reported to me by Fred Lorenzen that on December 7, 1946, he came upon a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers in the Wapsipinicon River bottoms in Clinton County. He knew the bird at once by its large size and heavy beak. It was in this area that J. Harold Ennis saw the bird in January, 1943. It is possible that the Pileated nests in that area, and doubtless extensive field work along the Wapsipinicon would bring some valuable data to light.—JAMES HODGES, Davenport, Iowa.

**December Notes from South Dakota.**—The hunting season ended on December 12. On December 8, 1946, I made some final bird notes in Bon Homme County, which is the first county east of Charles Mix County, South Dakota. It was a good day for hunting, and I missed several good shots while watching bird life. We saw two Prairie Falcons, two Rough-legged Hawks, seven Marsh Hawks, one Sparrow Hawk, several large flocks of Lapland Longspurs, three Rusty Blackbirds, and, much to my pleasure, several small flocks of Common Redpolls. There also were numbers of all the other regular winter birds in the area.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

**Winter Record of Lincoln's Sparrow.**—On January 30, 1947, we decided to make a check on how many Chickadees were using our shelf feeders. During the day 31 Chickadees were trapped. At no time had we ever seen more than eight about at one time. Several Slate-colored Juncos and two Tree Sparrows were also banded. The Tree Sparrow population increased, and on February 5 four were seen. Also on that date a bird with pointed tail and other features not conforming to a Tree Sparrow was observed. It was trapped and found to be a Lincoln's Sparrow with outer tail feathers not fully grown to length—thus the sharp-tail effect.—M. L. JONES, Ledges State Park, Boone, Iowa.

**Cormorants Pursue Osprey.**—In late April of 1945 I made a rather interesting observation. A large number of Double-crested Cormorants remained at a large pond just off the north side of High Lake during most of April. They were mostly congregated around a little, low, tree-covered island, sitting in the trees or among the stones on a submerged bar leading to the tiny island. One day I was at a farm on the north side of the lake. The pond where the cormorants were was on the other side of a heavily wooded area. We noticed a large number of cormorants rising above the intervening woods and mounting high into the sky. Looking more carefully, we realized that one of the birds in the air was an Osprey and that it was being pursued by the cormorants, while it continued to mount higher and at length took a southward course over High Lake. When the Osprey was definitely put to flight, most of the cormorants dropped back out of sight behind the woods, but some continued to follow the Osprey for some distance before they gave up the chase. I have wondered if cormorants habitually drive Ospreys from what they consider their premises or whether this was an isolated case. These two species are not often seen in the same place here so I have not had opportunity to observe their behavior toward each other.—B. O. WOLDEN, Estherville, Iowa.

**Barred Owl Eating Fish.**—The winter diet of the Northern Barred Owl in Iowa consists of small rodents with a few birds when rodents are scarce. It was to my surprise that I found a bird of this species eating small fish taken from the nearby Mississippi River. When I surprised this owl on its roost on February 22, 1947, it dropped a small fish that it had just captured and flew to a nearby tree. I found a large number of pellets beneath the tree together with pieces of fish, showing that this bird had been supplementing its diet with fish. Observers in other parts of the United States have found the same habit, but it is considered rare and quite irregular.—JAMES HODGES, Davenport, Iowa.

**An Underground Nest of the Western House Wren.**—In my book of bird notes which I kept as a boy in Des Moines, Iowa, covering the period from 1905 to 1910, I find an entry on June 1, 1908, as follows: "Near bridge west of Waveland Park I flushed a House Wren from her nest in a hole in a bank which contained eight fresh eggs. Took one (No. 99) for my collection."

I wasn't reporting my ornithological observations at that time, but I remember the incident well, and it seems worthy of record. The hole in the dirt bank was only a few inches from the top of the bank of a small stream. I do not know whether the cavity was formed by animal, decayed tree root, or in some other way.

I was collecting "singles" at that period of my bird studies, and I still have the specimen which is a typical egg of this species. My notebook contains many notes on the nesting of the House Wren, but all the other nests were either in woodpecker holes, in bird houses, or in holes or crevices in fence posts, trees or buildings.

My egg data book refers further to this nesting as follows: "Nest was in a small hole in a bank about 4 inches from the top of the bank, 4 feet above a small stream and 10 feet from a wagon bridge. The opening was just the right size for the bird to enter the small cavity which held the nest and eight fresh eggs. I found the nest by flushing the bird. The cavity was filled with weed stems and sticks which supported the lining of horse-hair, feathers and a number of strips of cast-off snake skin."

After investigating the nest through a small opening I made from above, I carefully repaired the damage and left her with seven eggs.

Although the House Wren has been reported to nest in almost any receptacle which will hold their more or less bulky structures, I doubt if there are many underground nesting records.—EMERSON A. STONER, Benicia, California.

**Observations in the Cedar Rapids Region.**—On looking over my notes of this year's birds, I find several items that may prove to be interesting. On January 1, 1947 at Cedar Lake in Cedar Rapids, a pair of Hooded Mergansers was observed. They remained for several days through weather which reached —19 degrees F. On March 11, 15 Evening Grosbeaks were observed in a maple grove in a residential section of Cedar Rapids. According to the people living in the neighborhood, they were first seen on February 23, arriving nearly every morning about 9:00 a.m. to feed on the maple seeds which had fallen to the ground. There were three males in full adult plumage, the rest apparently being female birds. The flock remained in the neighborhood for nearly a month, being last seen by Dr. Keck on March 22. Their note seemed to be like an English Sparrow's loud "cheep," but bell-like and clear, with a rising inflection. Often they could first be located by their call notes. They were seen feeding on the ground beneath the maples

and also beneath a group of spruce trees in a cemetery, hopping lightly about for so chunky a bird.

Both the Horned and Eared Grebes have been observed in this area, the Horned at Amana lake on April 27, 1947, and the Eared at Swan lake May 4. Swan lake has been very good this year with the Florida Gallinule first seen there on May 4, and again May 18, at which later date four Least Bitterns were seen. Soras and Virginia Rails were first observed on April 20 at Swan lake and the King Rail was seen there May 18. A Flock of 12 Canadian Geese spent the second week of April at Amana lake, and on April 27 two White Pelicans were seen there.

Shorebird observations included four Dowitchers seen April 27 at Amana lake, several Wilson's Phalaropes on May 4 in a pond near Amana, a pair of Western Willets observed in a roadside pond near North Liberty by Dr. and Mrs. Laude, Dick Turner and Dorothy Jensen of Iowa City, and five Red-backed Sandpipers first seen by Miss Richards of the Cedar Rapids Bird club on May 21 at Cedar lake, and a bit later observed by the writer and Mrs. Vane. A Woodcock was seen in Amana woods on April 13, and during the previous week was reported from Lake McBride by Dick Turner of Iowa City.

On May 4 a flock of between 40 and 50 American Pipits was observed in a low field in the Iowa River valley near Amana. A pair of Swainson's Hawks was found nesting just south of Vinton by Dr. and Mrs. Laude when they were returning from the Iowa Ornithologists' Convention. Many observers from Cedar Rapids have driven out to see these birds which are uncommon in our area.—ROBERT F. VANE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

#### RECENT BIRD BOOKS

BIRDS IN THE GARDEN AND HOW TO ATTRACT THEM, by Margaret McKenny (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1946; cloth, 8vo, pp. i-xvi & 1-349, with 16 col. pls., 5 pp. of diagrams, 32 pp. of photographs; price, \$5).

Reprinting 'Birds in the Garden' was a fine idea, for there has been considerable demand for it ever since the first edition went out of print. It is a volume that fulfills several purposes. The descriptions of bird life are entertainingly written so that the casual reader can sit down and while away pleasant hours with it whenever he chooses. The serious gardener who wishes to obtain information on the best ways to attract birds will find all his questions answered. It is an important reference source for those who seek data on planting to provide food and shelter for desired bird neighbors, and the construction of artificial devices such as bird houses, feeding stations, bird baths, pools and fountains. There are lists of plants (98 pages) attractive to birds in various parts of the country, descriptions of feeding methods to attract migrants, detailed plans (illustrated by sketches) for building and landscaping with an eye to providing shrubbery and cover most inviting to birds.

The book goes much further than giving information on attracting birds. One chapter discusses the singing impulse in birds and song characteristics. Another suggests proper care and feeding of stray birds. The chapter on migration and bird-banding is not new matter but is interestingly written. Camera enthusiasts will enjoy the chapter on 'Hunting with a Camera', while the 32 pages of excellent photographs carefully gleaned from many sources are very appealing. Colored plates always add much to the printed text. Sixteen colored plates, depicting 48 species, from the brushes of Brecken-

ridge, Brooks and Weber, are included in this book. They were previously used in 'Birds of Minnesota' and 'Bird Portraits in Color', by the late Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, both of which books are now out of print. The need for maintaining the balance of nature through conservation of wildlife is appropriately covered in a final chapter, and the value of public and private bird sanctuaries is stressed. It is a working manual and a reference work, very attractively presented, by an authority on birds and gardens—a book that nature lovers will read with a great deal of profit.—F. J. P.

\* \* \* \* \*

HOW TO KNOW THE LAND BIRDS, by H. E. Jaques (Wm. C. Brown Co., Dubuque, Iowa, 1947; spiral paper binding, 8vo, pp. i-iv & 1-196, with about 400 drawings; price, spiral binding, \$1.50; cloth, \$2.50).

Dr. Jaques, who is a professor of biology at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, several years ago began the 'Pictured-Key Nature Series', which has proved to be a highly successful set of nature guides for field use. He has produced: 'Plant Families — How to Know Them' (1941), 'Plants We Eat and Wear' (1943), 'How to Know the Trees' (1946), 'Living Things—How to Know Them' (1946), and 'How to Know the Insects' (1947). With characteristic energy he has tackled the big job of putting the land birds into a small field key, and the present book is the result.

The book opens with several brief explanatory chapters touching the form and functions of birds — sizes, plumages, habits, migration, eggs, young, songs, etc. These are followed by instructions for using the pictorial field keys, after which the student goes on to the species described and pictured in the body of the book. Every land bird is described, including those for both eastern and western United States, as this book departs from the usual plan of separating eastern and western forms for the convenience of the student. All subspecies are also listed so the student can tell at a glance what subspecific forms he is likely to encounter in his region. Each species is shown in a small but clear black-and-white drawing, in which the prominent details of plumage are pointed out in a manner somewhat similar to the Peterson guides. These drawings run two or three to the page, with a paragraph on size, coloring, etc. printed beside it. Every bird figure is accompanied by a tiny United States map with the bird's range blacked in. This is a very useful feature. Dr. Jaques has done a thorough job and presents a great deal of information in a limited space. But these are competitive days. It will be up to the student to decide whether he wants a low-cost book of this sort or a higher priced one with colored pictures of the birds.—F. J. P.

\* \* \* \* \*

SILENT WINGS: A MEMORIAL TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON, edited by Walter E. Scott (Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Madison, 1947; paper wrappers, 8vo, pp. 1-42, with 1 col. pl. & 15 illus. mostly from photographs; price, \$1).

This booklet was issued and first made available at the dedication of the monument to the Passenger Pigeon at Wyalusing State Park, Wisconsin, on May 11, and thus ties in with that historic event. The story of the pigeon in Wisconsin is nicely presented and is very interesting reading. There are a number of photographs of the bird in captivity besides a colored frontispiece from an early painting. A talk by Dr. Aldo Leopold is given in condensed form. The address, "Attitude in Conservation", given by Dr. Hartley H. T. Jackson at the dedication ceremonies is printed in its entirety. The bulk of the booklet is from the pen of Dr. A. W. Schorger, who is a foremost

authority on this bird. In one article he describes his researches into the literature and gives a good account of the bird's travels, its nesting, general habits, and its final destruction. The other article, entitled 'The Great Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon Nesting of 1871' from the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York for 1937, is reduced somewhat by a photographic process which allowed reprinting all 26 pages of the original paper. This is a very complete and important article and it is fortunate that it can thus be made available to thousands of new readers. The Wisconsin booklet is a valuable historical document which all serious bird students will wish to own.—F. J. P.

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Pierce are now living at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, where Mr. Pierce is the leader of a research project to determine the survival of pen-reared quail after they have been released in the wild. He has charge of ten areas on which the studies are conducted, each area about 1000 acres in extent, located within a radius of 50 miles of Elizabethtown.

The 22nd annual May Dawn Bird Concert, sponsored by the Davenport Public Museum, was held on May 10 at Credit Island with 50 persons participating in the field trip. After the trip a breakfast was served at the Island Inn, and James Hodges gave a talk on the habits of the Cowbird. Plans for the organization of a bird club in Davenport were discussed at this time. We hope that the movement to form a bird club bears fruit.

Drs. F. L. R. and Mary Roberts have contributed their set of 'Bird Banding Notes' to the library of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. This publication has been issued in mimeographed form by the Biological Survey, and the set they presented is complete from No. 1 up to 1940. The professional relationship of the Drs. Roberts has changed considerably in the past year. They have joined a clinic at Spirit Lake, with Dr. F. L. R. doing almost full-time internal medicine. They believe that the new arrangement will give them much needed leisure and the opportunity to return to the birding activities which they have missed in the past several very busy years.

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was well represented at the Wildlife School for boys, held at Vinton, May 23-24-25. The school, sponsored by the Benton County Fish and Game Club, was a highly successful one, with about 60 boys attending. Harry E. Rector, a state conservation officer and one of our members, was an organizer and director of the school. Dr. Harold Ennis was the principal speaker of the May 24 session. The school closed with a morning bird hike on May 25, with Miss Myra Willis, Miss Lillian Serbousek and Fred J. Pierce as leaders of the three groups who participated.

A paper entitled 'Predation and Vertebrate Populations', by Dr. Paul L. Errington (published in 'Quarterly Review of Biology', Vol. 21, Nos. 2-3, June and September, 1946), was named the most outstanding paper in the field of wildlife ecology and management for the calendar year 1946, at the annual meeting of the Wildlife Society, held at San Antonio, Texas, February 3, 1947. Dr. Errington, a well-known member, is Research Associate Professor of Economic Zoology at Iowa State College. This is the second time that he has been so honored, the other cited publication being a 1940 research bulletin on the Great Horned Owl.

Chas. J. Spiker, a founder of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union who now lives at Branchport, N. Y., was an Iowa visitor from May 24 to June 2, having been called here by the serious illness of his mother, who lives at Earlville. Mr. Spiker spent a day and a half at Editor Pierce's home during which a good bird trip was enjoyed.



vious editions but revised and rewritten, with 511 figures in full color instead of the 130 figures in color in the second edition. Guy Emerson, former president of the National Audubon Society, calls it "The most practical field guide ever written in any language on the birds of any region in the world."

At all bookstores, \$3.50

# Announcing Roger Tory Peterson's **A Field Guide to the Birds**

*Third edition*

Although this third edition of Roger Tory Peterson's standard Guide to the Birds has been completely reorganized, it still contains the famous Peterson system of field markings and color patterns for easy identification from a distance.

The new edition has more illustrations than ever — 1000 of them with 511 in full color. All are completely new.

It contains all the birds — land birds, water birds, birds of prey, and game birds — that you can see on a field walk east of the Great Plains and west of Bermuda.

A new feature is a section under each separate species called "Similar Species".

Here is the "bible" of the ornithologist, whether he be expert or amateur, containing all the features which distinguished the pre-

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY · PUBLISHERS

